

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the title of the invention with the following new title to indicate the invention to which the claims are directed: “Metal Tube Support Bracket”

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following replacement paragraph:

[0009] The support bracket and collar are formed from a ductile metal alloy that preferably comprises an aluminum-coated steel material. Also preferably, the collar is formed by draw-punching ~~[[s]]~~ a region of the support bracket.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following replacement paragraph:

[0025] ~~FIG. 7 is~~ FIGS. 7A and 7B are two side views of the collar region of the bracket: FIG. 7A showing an initial hole formed in the bracket prior to draw-forming of the collar, and FIG. 7B showing the hole of FIG. 7A enlarged to form 4 equally spaced-apart radial tabs that subsequently become the four axial tabs of the collar.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following replacement paragraph:

[0031] As shown in FIG. 4, collar 24 has an axial thickness, T_1 , that may be about 0.25-0.38 inch. Also as shown, each axial tab 68 is spaced from the next adjacent tab by an intermediate arcuate recess or cutout 70. Collar 24 is formed having at least one, and preferably two as shown in FIGS. 3-5, relatively small, shallow axial grooves 74 formed into an inner collar surface 76 (FIG. 5), the grooves 74 extending the entire length of each of tabs ~~[[70]]~~ 68. Preferably, intermediate regions 70 are likewise provided by a pair of axial grooves 74. Preferably all of axial grooves 74 are equally spaced-apart around the inside of collar 24. As shown in FIG. 5 for a representative tab 68, each groove 74 has a width, W_2 , that may be only about ~~0.031~~ 0.03-0.05 inch, and a depth, d_i , that may be only about ~~0.031~~ 0.03-0.05 inch.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following replacement paragraph:

[0033] ~~FIG. 7 depicts~~ FIGS. 7A and 7B depict two preliminary steps in the draw-punching of collar 24. In an initial step depicted in FIG. 7A, a circular center hole 90 is punched or drilled in bracket end region ~~25~~ 28 in the desired location of collar 24. Next, as depicted in FIG. 7B, a shaped hole 92 is punched or cut into bracket end region around central aperture 90 in a manner forming four tabs 68 in a radial direction. Finally, hole 92 is draw-punched in a known manner used in industry to form tubular products, thereby forming collar 24.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following replacement paragraph:

[0034] After collar 24 is formed with four tabs 68 and all axial grooves 74, tube 30 is installed through aperture 26 and collar 24. Then collar 24 is radially swaged tightly against tube 30 with a radial force sufficient to ~~[[to]]~~ generate a hoop stress and bite the installed tube and cause an exterior surface 98 of the tube to flow or extrude into grooves 74, thereby locking the tube in the collar and hence into bracket 22.

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following replacement paragraph:

[0035] It will be appreciated that a corresponding method for supporting tube 30 in bracket 22 is provided, the method comprising the steps of providing a ductile, aluminum-coated steel alloy bracket 22, draw-punching a region of the support bracket to form an aperture 26 having a contiguous castellated collar 24 with four equally spaced-apart axial tabs 68, the aperture and collar being sized for receiving in close-fitting relationship metal tube 30. Included are the steps of forming at least one axial groove 74 into inner surface ~~[[78]]~~ 76 of each of tabs 68, installing an aluminum alloy tube 30 through aperture 26 and collar 24, and swaging the collar against the installed tube with sufficient radial force to cause the tabs 68 to generate a hoop stress and bite the installed tube and to cause regions of the installed tube to extrude into

the axial grooves. Further included are the preliminary steps of making hole 90 in the region for collar 24 and [[them]] then enlarging the hole to form four equally spaced-apart radial tabs 68 which are subsequently formed into four equally spaced-apart axial tabs of the collar by the draw-punching step.